

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The needle-receiving portion 11 operably receives and holds a needle "N" (see figures 4a, 4b, 4c) and/or needle luer combination and assembly of such.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The tab-engaging portion 25 of the lever 13 is shaped and sized to engage the release means 24 and separate the rigid tabs 24a, 24b when pressed in a downward direction and in turn separate the legs 16, 17 whilst not obstructing the passage of the needle N--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In this, the so-called primed position, subsequently applied longitudinal forces acting on the nose plate 14 will cause the legs 16, 17 to flex outwardly and unsheath the needle N for use. Performing the injection (i.e. continuing such longitudinal application of force along the needle axis) causes the legs 16, 17 to flex apart to a maximum position and the actuating lever 13 engaging portion 25 is then released from its secured latched position and rises up, under its own resilience, out of the way of the legs.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--When the longitudinal force acting on the nose plate 14 is removed, the needle retracts; the natural resilience of the legs 16, 17 plus the action of band 22 causes the legs 16, 17 to

automatically close around the needle N until they are once more in the closed position of Figure

2. They are ten geometrically so biased that further longitudinal forces acting on the nose plate 14 will be resisted rather than cause the needle N to be exposed.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The end profile has a squared off front end, so that when the engaging portion 25 is latched in the primed position there is sufficient clearance for the needle N to move without impacting the trigger mechanism 13. In an alternative embodiment (Figure 5c) it is so shaped and sized to embrace the needle N without restricting movement of the needle; this is also advantageous in its own right.--